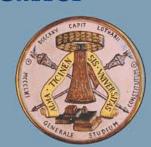
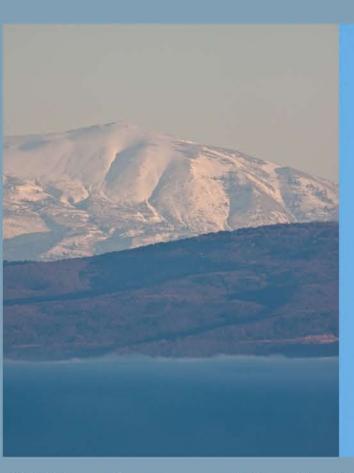
MOUNT OLYMPUS: A NEW RAPTOR MIGRATION BOTTLENECK IN NORTHERN GREECE



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Little is known of raptor movements in Greece (Handrinos & Akriotis 1997). In particular, a recent survey made over the island of Antikythira, in southern Greece, showed that a small but significant passage of raptors occurs along the Peloponnese-Crete flyway during spring and autumn (Lucia et al. 2011). As expected, few of the broad-winged raptors using soaring flight during migration were recorded on Antikythira, even though important populations of several species breed in Greece (Birdlife International 2004). At that site, large numbers (> 1000) of adult honey buzzards, *Pernis apivorus*, were reported during autumn but not during spring movements (see also Agostini et al. in press). In addition, in another study made in spring at Dadia National Park, c. 80 km northwest of the Dardanelles (Schindler et al. 2009).
This study documents the first systematic survey of autumn and spring migration of raptors in a new raptor migration bottleneck in northern Greece: the Mount Olympus. The mountain chain (approx. 40° 01′N, 22° 29′E) in this area runs parallel and close to the coast (approx. 7 km) forcing migratis to concentrate on a narrow corridor (Panuccio et al. 2011). Observations were made with telescopes and binoculars along its eastern slopes between 9 September-1 October 2009, 6-26 March and 27 April-16 May 2010.

During autumn migration we reported the passage of 1093 raptors, mostly short-toed snake eagles, marsh harriers *Gircus aeruginosus* and honey buzzards (Table 1). While short-toed snake eagles were seen heading NNE, marsh harriers and honey buzzards flew towards SSW. As expected, among honey buzzards juveniles outnumbered adults while the opposite occurred in the other two species. In fact, adult honey buzzards migrate earlier, thus we cannot exclude a passage before our observation period. During spring migration we counted a total of 785 raptors, mostly short-toed snake eagles during both spring and autumn (Panuccio et al. 2011), honey buzzards in period. During spring migration we counted a tota

References
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Riassunto. Questo studio è il risultato di osservazioni sistematiche effettuate per la prima volta durante la migrazione autunnale e primaverile dei rapaci lungo le pendici orientali del Monte Olimpo, nella Grecia settentrionale. Il monitoraggio è stato effettuato tra il 9 settembre e il 1 ottobre 2009 e tra il 6-26 Marzo e il 27 Aprile e il 16 maggio 2010. Durante la migrazione autunnale è stato riportato il passaggio di 1093 rapaci, prevalentemente bianconi Circaetus gallicus, falchi di palude Circus aeruginosus e falchi pecchiaioli Pernis apivorus. Mentre i bianconi sono stati osservati dirigersi verso NNE, i falchi di palude e i falchi pecchiaioli svanivano verso SSW. Durante la migrazione primaverile sono stati contati 785 rapaci, prevalentemente bianconi osservati quasi tutti dirigersi verso SSW. Solo poche decine di falchi pecchiaioli sono stati riportati in questo periodo.

Table 1 - Numbers and migratory directions of raptors observed migrating at Mount Olympus

	Autumn Heading		Spring Heading	
	Northwards			Southwards
Pernis apivorus	0	177	2	26
Accipiter brevipes	36	14	4	57
Accipiter nisus	0	19	10	1
Circus aeruginosus	0	268	17	3
Circaetus gallicus	367	9	4	606
Aquila pennata	0	1	1	2
Buteo rufinus	0	2	1	2
Milvus migrans	1	7	1	0
Circus pygargus	0	20	0	0
Circus macrourus	0	1	0	0
Pandion haliaetus	0	5	0	0
Aquila heliaca	0	0	0	2
Aquila pomarina	2	11	0	1
Gyps fulvus	0	0	0	1
Buteo buteo vulpinus	0	1	0	0
Buteo buteo buteo	0	81	14	25
Falco vespertinus	0	3	0	0
Falco naumanni	0	53	3	0
Falco tinnunculus	0	7	1	1
Falco subbuteo	0	8	0	0

